



Date: October 16, 2015

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Constance Stancil, Director, Neighborhood Improvement Services
Subject: HUD Fair Housing Contract for FY 2015-2016

Executive Summary

The Human Relations Division of the Neighborhood Improvement Services (NIS) Department enforces local, state and federal laws, ordinances, policies, procedures and regulations dealing with discrimination in fair housing. Specifically, Division staff processes formal and informal fair housing discrimination complaints, conducts fair housing outreach, provides training, partners with community organizations and sponsors fair housing events.

The purpose of this proposed Council action is to adopt a grant project ordinance for funds received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for FY 2015-16. The HUD fair housing grant will be utilized by the Neighborhood Improvement Services Department Human Relations Division for administrative costs, operating costs, fair housing education, fair housing training, travel, fair housing events and partnership activities.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to accept the City of Durham North Carolina and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development 2015-16 Grant Funds by executing the grant documents and adopting the City of Durham Grant Project Ordinance in the amount of \$91,875.

Background

The Human Relations Division received its first fair housing contract with HUD in 1995. This contract was possible because of City Council action requesting legislative approval of an enhanced local anti-discrimination fair housing ordinance which was substantially equivalent to the federal fair housing law. As a result of this action, the Division enforces the local Fair Housing Ordinance and Title VIII of the Federal Fair Housing Act. The Division accepts housing complaints from citizens who feel that they have been discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, national origin, gender, familial status (families with children) or disability(physical or mental). In addition, staff provides Fair Housing training seminars and workshops for landlords, property managers, realtors, nonprofit housing providers, public housing tenants and the general public. The funding is also used to sponsor human relations events, partnership activities, fair housing outreach, administrative costs, operating costs, fair housing training and related travel.

Issues and Analysis

Once approved, these funds will allow us to maintain our work in the area of fair housing compliance and to maintain our ability to perform community outreach efforts, and more effectively protect the citizens of Durham from housing discrimination. The funding received in this agreement is as follows:

• Case Processing:	\$ 63,000
• Training:	\$ 17,875
• Administrative Cost (AC):	\$ <u>11,000</u>
Total Contract Amount	\$ 91,875

Alternatives

This alternative is not recommended because there would be inadequate funds for the Department to spend in carrying out fair housing activities throughout the City.

Financial Impact

This grant will be used to support work in the area of Fair Housing. The HUD Cooperative Grant Funding specifically will be used for the following activities:

- Administrative costs associated with fair housing
- Training for fair housing administration and enforcement
- Education and outreach activities and materials
- FHAP agency partnership activities
- Partial Salary for fair housing staff

SDBE Summary

This is a grant project ordinance from HUD promoting fair housing and equality of services and therefore not required to be reviewed for compliance with the Ordinance to Promote Equal Business Opportunities in City Contracting.

Attachments

HUD Grant Project Ordinance 2015-16
HUD Grant Contracts 2015-16 (Case Processing and Training/Administrative Costs)